



## DIVE DEEPER

**READ Mark 5:30-44 (NIV)**

*30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. 31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."*

*32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. 33 But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. 34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.*

*35 By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. 36 Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."*

*37 But he answered, "You give them something to eat."*

*They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"*

*38 "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see."*

*When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish."*

*39 Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. 41 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. 42 They all ate and were satisfied, 43 and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. 44 The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.*

**A TIME OF GRIEF:**

¿ What had Jesus heard about that caused him to want to withdraw to a solitary place? (See Mark 6:14-29)

¿ When you are trying to deal with a death in the family, how do you expect people to treat you? Is it an appropriate time for them to bombard you with their needs and requests? How would you respond if they did?

¿ Verse 34 says that Jesus had compassion on them and taught them. Knowing Christ's inner desire was to find a place to be alone to process the bad news, what does this say about his character?

YES • NO • MAYBE

1. When tragedy personally affects me, I prefer to spend some time alone, and to not be surrounded by people.

2. While someone is going through a time of grief, they should not be expected to tend to the needs of others.

3. I have personally seen God multiply something, and I can't explain it away with a human explanation.

4. God is responsible to make sure that no one goes hungry, ever.

5. God does not give me more blessings than I need.



## DIVE DEEPER (CONTINUED...)

› (V. 37) **You give.** “You give” is a command, not a suggestion.

¿ Why do you think that Jesus did not give his disciples any instructions on how to feed the people?

› (V. 39) **Sit down.** “Sit down” is anaklinō (ἀνακλινω), the word used of a person reclining on a couch at a banquet. The word means “to lean up.” Here, the command was merely to recline on the green grass and wait to be served. The Jewish dining-room was arranged like the Roman: three tables forming three sides of a square, and with divans or couches following the outside line of tables. The open end of the square admitted the servants who waited at the tables. This explains the arrangement of the multitude here described by Mark. The people sat down, literally, in table-companies, arranged like guests at table ... so that the disciples could pass along their side and distribute the loaves.” It was Passover time (John 6:4) and the grass was fresh and green.

### A FAMILIAR MENU:

#### READ 2 Kings 4:42-44 (NIV)

42 *A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing the man of God twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe grain, along with some heads of new grain. “Give it to the people to eat,” Elisha said.*

43 *“How can I set this before a hundred men?” his servant asked.*

*But Elisha answered, “Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the Lord says: ‘They will eat and have some left over.’” 44 Then he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the Lord.*

¿ What similarities can you list from this story and the Feeding of the 5000?

¿ What do you think Jesus was trying to show the people about God’s character with this miraculous feeding?

### THE PERFECT AMOUNT OF LEFTOVERS:

¿ What do you think Jesus was trying to say by having leftovers? Why do you think that he produced 12 baskets more than needed?

¿ What basket of “leftovers” are we holding today?

NOTES

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## MY PRAYER

1. What are my deepest emotional needs right now?
2. How have my own needs blinded me from the needs of those around me?
3. What new thing does God need me to know about His character this week?